



NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT

Office of Public Information

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March 20, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMENDED PRESS RELEASE

The Judicial Resources Commission will hold a public hearing pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 24-1204 to determine the following:

- (1) Whether, based on the judicial workload statistics, a judicial vacancy exists in the office of district judge of the 12th Judicial District, due to the retirement of the Honorable Robert O. Hippe, effective April 30, 2007, and make a recommendation to the Supreme Court as to the principal place of office of said vacancy.
- (2) Whether, based on the judicial workload statistics, a judicial vacancy exists in the office of district judge of the 12th Judicial District, due to the retirement of the Honorable Paul D. Empson, effective June 30, 2007, and make a recommendation to the Supreme Court as to the principal place of office of said vacancy.
- (3) Discussion of the request by the 9th Judicial District, and any other districts which may appear, that if a vacancy is declared due to the retirement of Judge Empson in the 12th Judicial District, that this vacancy, in the office of district judge, be transferred to that requesting district.

The hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 2, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., central time. The hearing will be held via video conferencing from the State Capitol Building, Room 1525, Lincoln, Nebraska, and will include participation from the Panhandle Learning Center, 4502 Ave. I, High Plains Room, Scottsbluff, Nebraska, from the State Office Building, Room 207, Second Floor, 1313 Farnam Street, Omaha, Nebraska, and from the Hastings Public Library, Second Floor, 517 West 4th Street, Hastings, Nebraska.

The Commission makes its determination based on weighted caseloads, adequate access to the courts by litigants, population, judicial duties, travel time and other factors necessary to assure efficiency and service of the court system.

Following the hearing, the commission will make a recommendation to the Legislature of their determination.

Commission members are:

Supreme Court Justice Michael McCormack, Chairperson

Alan L. Brodbeck, O'Neill
Robert B. O'Neal, Papillion
Thomas F. Hoarty, Omaha
Jolanda J. Kuzma, Lincoln
Jane Morgan, Gordon
Gerald E. Moran, Omaha
Margie A. Smith, Bellevue
Sharlon Rodgers, Omaha

Robert P. Chaloupka, Scottsbluff
Riko E. Bishop, Lincoln
Ronald Furse, Aurora
Nicole R. Neesen, Omaha
Mark M. Sipple, Columbus
Robert J. Parker, Hastings
Patricia McQuillan, Greeley
D. Paul Hartnett, Bellevue

(Continued...)

Any member of the public is entitled to attend the Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission hearing in Room 1525 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, and present, either orally or in writing, any pertinent information concerning the existence of a judicial vacancy. If anyone wishes to present written material at the hearing, a copy of such material should be furnished to the Chairperson at least one week prior to the hearing.

For special accommodations relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call (402) 471-3730. For persons with hearing impairments, please call the Nebraska Relay System at 711.

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